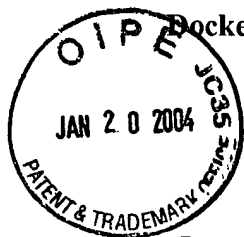


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Docket No. AUS920010022US1

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Brunssen et al.**

Serial No. **09/821,067**

Filed: **March 29, 2001**

For: **Simplifying Browser Search
Requests**

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Group Art Unit: **2171**

Examiner: **Nguyen, Cindy**

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**ATTENTION: Board of Patent Appeals
and Interferences**

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By:

Arnelia C. Turner
Arnelia C. Turner

APPELLANT'S BRIEF (37 C.F.R. 1.192)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on September 24, 2003.

The fees required under § 1.17(c), and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefore, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief is transmitted in triplicate. (37 C.F.R. 1.192(a))

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REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is the following party: IBM Corporation

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

With respect to other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there are no such appeals or interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

Claims in the application are: 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24, and 26-29

B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

1. Claims canceled: 2, 13, 23, and 25
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: NONE
3. Claims pending: 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24, and 26-29
4. Claims allowed: NONE
5. Claims rejected: 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24, and 26-29

C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

The claims on appeal are: 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24, and 26-29

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A Response to Final Office Action is filed herewith. Claims 9 and 20 are amended to overcome the objections presented in the Final Office Action, dated August 6, 2003. Since the amendments presented herein place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal and do not raise new issues that would require further search or consideration, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered for purposes of Appeal.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention provides a method, apparatus, and computer program for searching for information. In response to receiving an input string, the input string is parsed for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource locator and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected character (see specification, page 13, lines 8-18; page 14, lines 19-26). The information corresponding to the search string is searched through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier. The information may be searched by at least one of (a) locating a search object on the Web page, and using the search object to search for the information (see specification page 13, line 19, to page 14, line 3); and (b) searching the Web page for information corresponding to the search string (see specification, page 14, lines 4-11).

ISSUES

The issues on appeal are as follows:

Whether claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24, and 26-29 are unpatentable as being obvious over *Judd et al.* (US Patent No. 6,360,215) in view of *Pant et al.* (US Patent No. 6,012,053).

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

The claims on appeal do not stand or fall in a single group, but are grouped into the following groups for the reasons set forth in the Argument section below:

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 14-20, 22, 24, and 26-29 form group A. Claims 10 and 21 form group B.

ARGUMENT

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Judd et al.* (US Patent No. 6,360,215) in view of *Pant et al.* (US Patent No. 6,012,053). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

I. The Prior Art Fails to Teach or Suggest an Input String Including a Universal Resource Identifier and a Search String Separated by a Delimiter (Groups A-B)

With respect to claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24 and 26-29, the Office Action states:

Regarding claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 24, 26-29, Judd disclose: A method, a system and a product in a data processing system for searching for information, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving an input string (202, fig. 2A and corresponding text, Judd), parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string (204, 206, fig. 2A and corresponding text, Judd);

searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier (col. 10, lines 6-13, Judd), wherein the searching step comprises: locating a searching object on the Web page (col. 7, lines 5-18 Judd); and using the search object for the information (col. 7, lines 19-31, Judd).

However, Judd didn't disclose: wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter. On the other hand, Pant disclose: wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter (col. 8, lines 38-61, Pant). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include URL and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter in the system of Judd as taught by Pant. The motivation being to enable the user input special character in searching to receive more relevant document pages.

In addition, Judd/Pant disclose: initiating a searching for a search object and search object wherein the search is based on the search string (col. 8, lines 62 to col. 9, lines 16, Pant). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the step of initiating in the system of Judd as taught by Pant. The motivation being to enable the users type or select the various values base on the menu to provide the search quickly.

Judd/Pant disclose: a bus system (602, fig. 6 and corresponding text, Judd);

A communication unit connected to the bus system (618, fig. 6 and corresponding text, Judd);

A memory connected to the bus system (606, fig. 6 and corresponding test, Judd), wherein the memory includes as set of instructions (col. 18, lines 13-27, Judd);

A processing unit connect to the bus system (604, fig. 6 and corresponding

text, Judd).

Office Action, dated August 6, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. *Judd* teaches a method and apparatus for retrieving documents based on information other than document content. In *Judd*, a search engine generates an index for documents and adds tag words to the index when matches are found. Thereafter, the search engine of *Judd* executes searches against the index, rather than the actual content of the document. See *Judd*, Abstract.

In contradistinction, the present invention provides a mechanism for searching a Web page responsive to receiving a single input string, wherein the input string includes a universal resource identifier of the Web page and a search string. Claim 1 recites:

1. A method in a data processing system for searching for information, the method comprising:
 - responsive to receiving an input string, parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter; and
 - searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier, wherein the searching step comprises:
 - locating a search object on the Web page; and
 - using the search object to search for the information.

Judd does not teach or suggest “parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string” and “searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier,” as recited in claim 1. More particularly, *Judd* does not teach or suggest “wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter,” as recited in claim 1.

To the contrary, *Judd* teaches searching an index, rather than the Web page itself. With respect to **FIG. 2A**, which is cited in the Office Action as allegedly teaching the claim limitations, *Judd* states:

FIG. 2A is a flow diagram of a process of associating non-content information with documents and the index 16. In this context, "non-content information" refers to any information that does not form part of the literal content of a document, that is, information other than the words or other material of a document that are indexed by the

indexer **16** in the manner described above. The non-content information is represented by one or more tag words that are added to the index **16** and associated with one or more documents.

The process of **FIG. 2** is undertaken after index **16** is constructed. In particular, the process of **FIG. 2** presumes that another process has constructed a word index of the documents that are accessible in a system, and has constructed a list or table of location identifiers or URLs of documents that are accessible to the system.

Judd, col. 8, lines 54-59. With respect to elements **204**, **206**, which are cited in the Office Action as allegedly teaching the parsing step of the presently claimed invention, *Judd* states:

The process retrieves the next location identifier or URL in the table of location identifiers of index **16**, as shown by block **204**. The loop formed by block **204** and block **208** represents a sequential retrieval of the location identifier or URL of each document that is indexed in index **16**.

The process then tests whether the current location identifier matches any of the document specifications in the list that was received in block **202**, as shown by block **206**. For example, block **206** may involve matching a URL indexed in index **16** to the document specification **136a** of list **130**. If there is no match, then control is passed to block **208** to obtain the next location identifier, if any. When document specifications are in wildcard form, block **206** may involve parsing the document specification according to one or more wildcard format rules or syntax rules.

Judd, col. 9, lines 40-54. The cited portion of *Judd* only teaches parsing a URL to determine whether the URL is part of a list or table of supported Web pages. Neither the cited portions nor any other portions of *Judd* teach or suggest “responsive to receiving an input string, parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter,” as recited in claim 1. Moreover, *Judd* actually teaches away from the claimed invention, because *Judd* teaches a search engine for searching an word index **rather than** the Web page itself.

The Office Action also alleges that *Judd* teaches locating a search object **on the Web page** and using the search object to search for the information. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

The cited portion of *Judd* states:

The document index maps the document identifiers to specific document location identifiers, or to URLs, or to other information that may be displayed after a search, such as document title or document abstract.

Operation of crawler **18** and indexer **20** may involve receiving and reading one or more document identifiers, each of which identifies a hypertext document. For example, crawler **18** receives URLs, each of which identifies a Web document among documents **4a**, **4b**. Crawler **18** may call a process, procedure, program or subroutine and provide it with a list of URLs that the crawler has not yet visited. Crawler **18** may also retrieve a document identified by each URL using an HTTP request.

Each document in the list of URLs is scanned and its content is examined. Each hyperlink within the document is identified. In one embodiment, the documents are formatted using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), and crawler **18** detects each HTML anchor and associated hypertext reference in the document. The hyperlinks are added to a crawling queue. The crawling queue is a list of document identifiers or URLs that need to be visited by the process. When the process completes processing of the location identifiers that were previously obtained, the process retrieves the next location identifier in the crawling queue. In this way, the process eventually visits all documents to which a particular document points.

Judd, col. 7, lines 5-31. Neither the cited portion nor any other portion of *Judd* teaches or suggests locating a search **object within the Web page** and using the search object to search for the information, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action proffers no analysis as to why the operation of the crawler in *Judd* is somehow equivalent to “locating a search object on the Web page” and “using the search object to search for the information,” as in the presently claimed invention.

The Office Action states:

Applicant argues: *Judd* didn't teaches [sic.] locating a search object on the Web page identifier by the universal resource identifier. In response, *Judd* clearly disclose: locating a search object on the Web page identifier by the universal resource identifier as the document index maps the document identifiers to specific document location identifiers, or to URLs, or to other information that may be display [sic.] after a search, such as a document tile or document abstract (see also col. 7, lines 5-18).

Office Action, dated August 6, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. As discussed above, the cited portion simply fails to disclose the features alleged in the Office Action. In fact, since *Judd* teaches an index to be searched in place of the actual content of the Web page, *Judd* expressly teaches away from locating a search object **on the Web page** and initiating the search object **on the Web page** to search for the information corresponding to the search string, as in the claimed invention. The Office Action is silent as to how the cited portion somehow teaches the claimed features. Appellant submits that *Judd* simply does not teach or suggest these features.

Pant teaches a computer system with user-controlled relevance ranking of search results. A user interface allows a user to set relevance ranking attributes. See *Pant*, Fig. 5. The cited portion of *Pant* states:

FIG. 5 illustrates an example graphical user interface through which a user may input various values for the relevance factors. The relevance factors shown in this interface include the word match **300**, frequency (TFIDF) **302**, field **304**, position **306**, proximity **308** and order **310** factors. The user manipulates a button on a slider bar (e.g., button **312**) to adjust the value for the factor. The corresponding value set by the user (corresponding to the slider button position, that is) is displayed at a box such as **314**. A region **316** of the interface allows the user to input a search query. Such an interface may be created, for example, by appropriate programming using the Java programming language. Other interfaces may be created by using HTML forms to allow a user to type in a value or to select a value from the menu.

An example embodiment using an HTML form is shown in **FIG. 6**. In **FIG. 6**, the embodiment does not use a Java-implemented interface. The search input panel **320** is similar to panel **316** in **FIG. 5**, except a drop-down menu **322** allows a user to specify a kind of search, such as specifying finding all of the words or any of the words. The embodiment also may allow the user to specify finding the exact phrase, or performing natural language query or the specified boolean expression.

Pant, col. 8, line 62, to col. 9, line 16. Neither the cited portion nor any other portion of *Pant* teaches or suggests receiving an input string and parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, it follows that *Pant* does not teach or suggest “initiating a search for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource

identifier,” as recited in claim 1.

In addition, the Office Action also alleges that the above cited portion of *Pant* (col. 8, line 62, to col. 9, line 16) teaches initiating a searching for a search object. Neither the above cited portion nor any other portion of *Pant* teaches or suggests locating a search object **on the Web page**, as in the presently claimed invention. The Office Action proffers no analysis as to why the operation of the graphical user interface of *Pant* is somehow equivalent to “locating a search object on the Web page” and “using the search object to search for the information,” as in the presently claimed invention. Appellant submits that *Pant* simply does not teach or suggest this feature.

Therefore, the applied references, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least “parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string” and “searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier,” as recited in claim 1. The applied references, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least “wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter,” as recited in claim 1. The applied references, taken alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest at least “locating a search **object within the Web page**” and “using the search object to search for the information,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, a combination of *Judd* and *Pant* cannot render claim 1 obvious.

Independent claims 11, 12, 22, 24, and 26-29 recite subject matter addressed above with respect to claim 1. Since claims 3-10 and 14-21 depend from claims 1 and 12, the same distinctions between *Judd* and *Pant* and the invention recited in claims 1 and 12 apply for these claims. In addition, claims 3-11, 14-22, 24, and 26-29 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested by the applied references. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is overcome.

II. The Prior Art Fails to Teach or Suggest Selected Delimiters (Group B)

With respect to claims 10 and 21, the Office Action states:

Regarding claims 10 and 21, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 12 above, respectively. In addition, Judd/Pan disclose: wherein the selected delimiter is at least one of a “\$”, “o”, “*”,

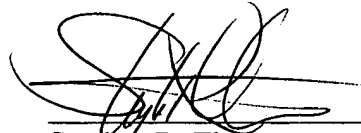
and “#” (col. 10, lines 60 to col. 11, lines 61, Judd).

Office Action, dated August 6, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. The cited portion of *Judd* discusses a wildcard format for document specifications. Nowhere in the cited portion of *Judd*, or any portion of either applied reference, does the prior art teach a delimiter for separating a universal resource identifier and a search string. The Office Action proffers no analysis whatsoever as to why a wildcard in a document specification is somehow equivalent to a delimiter in an input string, wherein the delimiter separates a universal resource identifier and a search string, as in the claimed invention. *Pant* does not solve the deficiencies of *Judd*.

The applied references, taken alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Therefore, the proposed combination of *Judd* and *Pant* cannot render claims 10 and 21 obvious. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is overcome.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, Appellant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24 and 26-29 are overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully urged that the rejections of claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 24 and 26-29 not be sustained.



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APPENDIX OF CLAIMS

The text of the claims involved in the appeal reads:

1. A method in a data processing system for searching for information, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving an input string, parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter; and

searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier, wherein the searching step comprises:

locating a search object on the Web page; and

using the search object to search for the information.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the searching step comprises:

searching the Web page for information corresponding to the search string.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the searching step further comprises:

searching Web pages identified by any universal resource identifiers found on the Web page.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the universal resource identifier is a universal resource locator.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented in a Web browser on the data processing system.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented in a program located on the data processing system.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
presenting results of the search.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the results are presented as a set of universal resource identifiers, wherein each universal resource identifier within the set of universal identifiers locators are selectable to retrieve an associated Web page.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected delimiter is at least one of a “\$”, “%”, “*”, and “#”.
11. A method in a data processing system for searching for information, the method comprising:
responsive to receiving an input string, parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter;
searching a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier for a search object;
and

initiating a search for the information through the search object, wherein the search is based on the search string.

12. A data processing system for searching for information, the data processing system comprising:

parsing means, responsive to receiving an input string, for parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected character; and

searching means for searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier, wherein the searching means comprises:

locating a search object on the Web page; and

using the search object to search for the information.

14. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the searching means comprises:

means for searching the Web page for information corresponding to the search string.

15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the searching means further includes:

means for searching Web pages identified by any universal resource identifiers found on the Web page.

16. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the universal resource identifier is a universal resource locator.

17. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the parsing means and the searching means are implemented in a Web browser on the data processing system.
18. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the parsing means and the searching means are implemented in a program located on the data processing system.
19. The data processing system of claim 12 further comprising:
presenting means for presenting results of the search.
20. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the results are presented as a set of universal resource identifiers, wherein each universal resource identifier within the set of universal resource identifiers are selectable to retrieve an associated Web page.
21. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the selected delimiter is at least one of a “\$”, “%”, “*”, and “#”.
22. A data processing system for searching for information, the data processing system comprising:
parsing means, responsive to receiving an input string, for parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter;
searching means for searching a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier for a search object; and

initiating means for initiating a search for the information through the search object, wherein the search is based on the search string.

24. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to parse the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter, responsive to receiving an input string; search a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier for a search object; and initiate a search for the information through the search object, wherein the search is based on the search string.

26. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for searching for information, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to receiving an input string, for parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter;

second instructions for searching a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier for a search object; and

third instructions for initiating a search for the information through the search object, wherein the search is based on the search string.

27. A method in a data processing system for searching for information, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving an input string, parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter; and

searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier by at least one of (a) locating a search object on the Web page, and using the search object to search for the information; and (b) searching the Web page for information corresponding to the search string.

28. A data processing system for searching for information, the data processing system comprising:

parsing means, responsive to receiving an input string, for parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter; and

searching means for searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier by at least one of (a) locating a search object on the Web page, and using the search object to search for the information; and (b) searching the Web page for information corresponding to the search string.

29. A computer program product in a computer readable medium searching for information, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to receiving an input string, for parsing the input string for a universal resource identifier and a search string, wherein the universal resource identifier and the search string are separated from each other in the input string by a selected delimiter; and

second instructions for searching for the information corresponding to the search string through a Web page identified by the universal resource identifier by at least one of (a) locating a search object on the Web page, and using the search object to search for the information; and (b) searching the Web page for information corresponding to the search string.